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STATE DOCUMENTS

# Annual Report

OF THE

## State Arid Land Grant Commission

OF THE

### STATE OF MONTANA

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DECEMBER 1, 1900

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1901  
STATE PUBLISHING CO.  
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# Annual Report

OF THE

## State Arid Land Grant Commission

OF THE

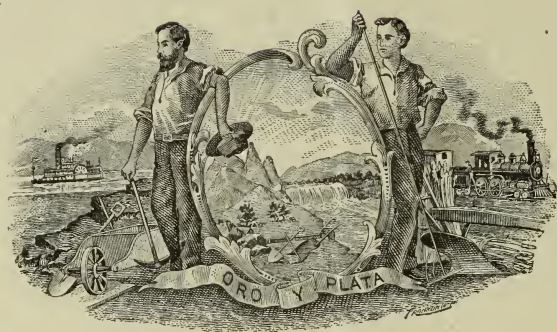
STATE OF MONTANA

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1901.



# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

### State Arid Land Grant Commission.

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To Hon. Robt. B. Smith,  
Governor of Montana :

Sir:—

There is little to report in the way of actual work accomplished by the Arid Land Grant Commission, save the segregation of a tract in Lewis and Clarke County, known as District No. 4.

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#### DISTRICT NO. 1.

Strenuous effort has been made to interest capitalists in District No. 1, near Billings. Responsible eastern parties now have the proposition before them and the Commission hope for favorable results. There is a total of ten thousand, six hundred and thirty-two (10632) acres in this district, and its close proximity to the city of Billings should make it an attractive proposition to investors, as the land would be taken as fast as the contractors could get it ready for the settler.

The Northern Pacific Land Department own fifteen thousand (15,000) acres which should be made a part of this district, and have offered exceedingly favorable terms to prospective purchasers. The engineering work, through the financial aid of the public spirited citizens of Billings, has been completed.

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#### DISTRICT NO. 2.

Work in District No. 2 should have begun on the first of

June, 1900, but, for reasons satisfactory to the Commission, the time has been extended to April first, 1901, with the understanding that no further time would be asked or granted.

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### DISTRICT NO. 3.

Warrants bearing seven per cent. (7 per cent.) interest have been issued for the engineering and other work in District No. 3, in Carbon County. Twenty thousand (20,000) acres of magnificent bench land have been selected, and situated as it is between the thriving towns of Bridger and Red Lodge, there would be no delay in its prompt settlement, upon the completion of the canal. The Commission feel safe in saying that this canal will be built during the year of 1901.

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### DISTRICT NO. 4.

Bids for the building of the canal system in this district were duly advertised, and the Commission hope to let the contract in the near future. The water for this system will be taken from the Dearborn River, and the valleys of Flat Creek, Dry Creek, Simms' Creek and Spring Coulee reclaimed,—in all, about thirty-three thousand (33,000) acres. The contract will provide for the prompt settlement of the land, as fast as it is reclaimed.

Public sentiment fully recognizes the necessity and importance of irrigation, and much could be accomplished in the next few years could the legislature be made to realize the value to the State of this work. An appropriation should be made to meet the necessary expenses of the Commission. Under the present law, there is no fund for the maintenance of an office for the meetings of the Board or for the purchase of the necessary stationery and office supplies. If the law is a good one there should be no selfish opposition to State aid in forwarding the work of the Commission.

Should the legislature think it wise to guarantee, say, four per cent. (4 per cent.) interest on the bonds, the problem of the early segregation and reclamation of the million acres of land ceded the State under the "Carey" law would be solved,



as the lands would be quickly taken up by thrifty farmers, and much taxable wealth added to our State.

Statements, showing receipts and expenditures for the various districts are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID A. CORY,

Secretary, State Arid Land Grant Commission.

Dated Helena, Montana, December 10, 1900.

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ANNUAL STATEMENT  
OF THE  
FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE STATE ARID LAND  
GRANT COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MONTANA,  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30TH,  
1900.

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DISTRICT NO. 1.

No Receipts or Disbursements.

Balance outstanding, as per last Annual Statement. . \$ 7,175.89

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DISTRICT NO. 2.

RECEIPTS.

From A. Wormser, Contractor .....	\$5,638.54
From A. Wormser, Contractor .....	4,132.61
From A. Wormser, Contractor .....	3,395.46
From District No. 3 .....	325.00
From Warrants issued .....	304.35

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Total .....	\$13,795.96
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DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid all claims of December 1st, 1899....	\$8,464.12
Paid Surveyors and their expenses .....	1,998.00
Paid expenses of Commission .....	2,750.00
Paid Expenses of Office .....	583.84

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Total .....	\$13,795.96
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Amount outstanding November 30, 1900. . \$ 304.35

DISTRICT NO. 3.

RECEIPTS.

From Warrants issued .....	\$ 2,686.00
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DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid Surveyors and their expenses.....	\$2,300.00
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Paid Expenses of Commission .....	386.00
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Total .....	\$ 2,686.00
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Amount outstanding November 30, 1900..	\$2,686.00
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RECAPITULATION.

Amount of indebtedness, District No. 1, November 30, 1900 .....	\$ 7,175.89
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Amount of indebtedness, District No. 2, November 30, 1900 .....	304.35
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Amount of indebtedness, District No. 3, November 30, 1900 .....	2,686.00
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Accounts payable, expenses of office, printing, post- age, etc., from May 1st to November 30th, 1900....	1,787.02
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Total .....	\$11,953.26
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The above is a correct statement of the financial condition  
of the State Arid Land Grant Commission on the 30th day of  
November, A. D., 1900.

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State Arid Land Grant Commission.









